

Message Text

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ACTION MBFR-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-12 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

NEA-10 GAC-01 TRSE-00 SAI-01 OIC-04 AEC-11 ACDA-19

OMB-01 RSR-01 /155 W

----- 057672

P R 141511 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8841

INFO SECDEF WASHDC PRIORTIY

MBFR CAPITALS 436

USMISSION GENEVA

USNMR SHAPE

USLOSACLANT

USCINCEUR

USDOCOSOUTH

USDEL SALT TWO II

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 VIENNA 3994

USNATO TAKE AS PRIORITY

GENEVA FOR DISTO

FROM US REP MBFR

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM

SUBJECT: MBFR: 14 MAY ALLIED PRESS CONFERENCE

NATO SPOKESMAN (QUARLES, NETHERLANDS) DELIVERED PRESS
BACKGROUND (TEXT IN VIENNA 3956) AT WEST GERMAN
EMBASSY ON 14 MAY FOLLOWING PLENARY SESSION. FOLLOWING
IS ACCOUNT OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FROM THAT SESSION.

1. QUESTION: HOW MUCH TIME WILL BE REQUIRED TO FINISH
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YOUR TALKS?

ANSWER: WE HOPE TO BE THROUGH BY THE END OF MAY, BE WE STILL HAVE TO DISCUSS THE AGENDA AND FIX THE DATE AND SITE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS.

2. QUESTIONS: WILL THERE BE A SECOND ROUND OF PREPARATORY TALKS?

ANSWER: NO. ONCE WE HAVE FINISHED THE CURRENT ROUND OF TALKS WE WILL NOT RECONVENE UNTIL THE FALL NEGOTIATIONS.

3. QUESTIONS: WILL IT BE POSSIBLE UNDER THE AGREED PROCEDURES FOR STATES OTHER THAN THOSE LISTED IN THE PAPER TO BECOME FULL PARTICIPANTS? WHAT ABOUT OBSERVERS?

ANSWER: EUROPEAN SECURITY IS CURRENTLY BASED ON A SYSTEM OF TWO ALLIANCES. MBFR IS ESSENTIALLY A NEGOTIATION BETWEEN THOSE TWO ALLIANCES. THE FOCUS OF THE TALKS IS ON CENTRAL EUROPE: THAT IS WHERE THE FOCUS BELONGS AND THAT IS WHERE THE NATO ALLIES INTEND TO KEEP IT. THAT IS THE REASON FOR THERE BEING TWO CATEGORIES OF PARTICIPANTS: DIRECT AND SPECIAL. WE DO NOT INTEND TO CREATE A THIRD CATEGORY OF OBSERVERS. WE ARE, HOWEVER, QUITE AWARE OF THE INTEREST OF OTHER EUROPEAN STATES IN OUR TALKS. WE APPRECIATE THAT INTEREST AND HAVE BEEN KEEPING THEM INFORMED. WE WILL KEEP THEM INFORMED IN THE FUTURE.

4. QUESTION: IF IT REQUIRES CONSENSUS TO CHANGE A STATE FROM SPECIAL TO DIRECT STATUS, WASN'T THE COMPROMISE ON THE HUNGARIAN QUESTION A UNILATERAL CONCESSION BY THE WESTERN SIDE?

ANSWER: THE OUTCOME ON THE HUNGARIAN QUESTION IS A TRUE COMPROMISE. THE ISSUE IS NOT SIMPLY ONE OF WHAT STATUS HAS BEEN GRANTED TO HUNGARY IN THESE TALKS. HUNGARY CAN BE BROUGHT INTO SPECIFIC MEASURES TO THE EXTENT REQUIRED BY WESTERN SECURITY INTERESTS. HUNGARY HAS SAID THAT IT COULD BE INCLUDED IN EVENTUAL AGREEMENTS OR MEASURES AND THE WEST HAS RESERVED THE RIGHT TO ADDRESS THAT QUESTION. THE QUESTION NOT ONLY CAN BE RAISED BUT WILL HAVE TO BE DEALT WITH AND DECIDED UPON. THAT IS WHAT WE WANTED AND THAT IS WHAT WE GOT.

5. QUESTION: I NOTICE THAT YOU ARE USING THE TERM " MBFR" BUT THAT THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE AVOIDS ANY DESCRIPTION OF CONFIDENTIAL

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THE SUBJECT MATTER. WHAT IS THE STATUS OF THE " MBFR" TERMINOLOGY?

ANSWER: THE PROBLEM OF DESCRIBING THE TALKS HAS NOT BEEN DEALT WITH YET. THERE WILL BE A DISCUSSION WITH THE EAST OF THE CONCEPT OF BALANCE. THE MAIN WESTERN AIM EXPRESSED BY THE TERM " BALANCED" IS THAT THE SECURITY INTEREST OF BOTH SIDES SHOULD BE ASSURED IN THE NEGOTIATIONS.

6. QUESTION: BY LIMITING THE FOCUS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS TO
CENTRAL EUROPE AREN' T YOU CREATING A NEW MAGINOT LINE CONCEPT?
ANSWER: THE FOCUS IS CORRECTLY ON CENTRAL EUROPE BECAUSE THAT
IS THE AREA OF THE LARGEST CONCENTRATION OF FORCES ON EITHER
SIDE. FLANK STATES WILL BE REPRESENTED AND THUS PROTECT
THEIR OWN INTERESTS.

7. QUESTION: WILL YOU ATTEMPT DURING THESE TALKS TO
ESTABLISH WHAT BASIS WILL BE USED TO DETERMINE WHAT FORCES
AND HOW MANY ON EITHER SIDE WILL BE ON THE SUBJECT OF THE FALL
NEGOTIATIONS? WILL YOU USE ISS (LONDON) FIGURES FOR THE
BASIS?
ANSWER: WE WILL NOT IN THE CURRENT TALKS ADDRESS THE QUESTION
OF WHICH FORCES WILL BE SUBJECT TO REDUCTIONS NOR WILL WE
ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH A NUMERICAL BASE. THAT IS BEING
DISCUSSED INTERNALLY IN NATO AND WILL HAVE TO BE A SUBJECT
FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS.

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----- 058086

P R 141511 Z MAY 73
FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8842
INFO SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
MBFR CAPITALS 437
USMISSION GENEVA
USNMR SHAPE
USLOSACLANT
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 VIENNA 3994

USNATO TAKE AS PRIORITY

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FROM US REP MBFR

8. QUESTION: DO YOU HAVE ANY FIRM PROMISES THAT THE HUNGARIANS WILL REALLY CONSIDER BEING A FULL PARTICIPANT?

ANSWER: WE CANNOT PREDICT WHAT THE OUTCOME WILL BE ON THIS QUESTION. WE HAVE THE RIGHT AND INTEND TO RAISE THE QUESTION, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT AGREEMENTS COULD BE HELD UP ON THIS POINT, BUT THE DECISION WILL DEPEND ON THE OVERALL NEGOTIATING SITUATION AT THE TIME.

9. QUESTION: WHEN YOU SAY THAT THE WEST WILL FOLLOW UP ON THE
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HUNGARIAN QUESTION, DO YOU MEAN DURING THE CURRENT TALKS?

ANSWER: NO. WE MEAN DURING THE NEGOTIATIONS.

10. QUESTION: HUNGARIAN PRESS SERVICES YESTERDAY REPORTED THAT AT NO TIME WOULD HUNGARY CONSIDER BECOMING A DIRECT PARTICIPANT. DOES THIS DETRACT FROM THE COMPROMISE YOU HAVE ANNOUNCED TODAY?

ANSWER: THE WEST HAS THE JURIDICAL RIGHT TO RAISE THE QUESTION OF HUNGARIAN PARTICIPATION DURING THE NEGOTIATIONS. IT SHOULD BE REMEMBERED THAT EVEN THE DIRECT PARTICIPANTS ARE "POTENTIAL" PARTICIPANTS IN FUTURE AGREEMENT. NO STATE, EVEN THE DIRECT PARTICIPANTS, IS REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE IN FUTURE AGREEMENTS. THE SAME APPLIES TO HUNGARY. AS I HAVE SAID, WE DO NOT ANTICIPATE THE NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE EASY. BUT WHEN WE STARTED THESE TALKS, THE OTHER SIDE COMPLETELY REFUSED TO RECOGNIZE OUR RIGHT TO RAISE THE QUESTION OF HUNGARIAN PARTICIPATION. NOW THEY HAVE FORMALLY RECOGNIZED THAT RIGHT.

11. QUESTION: YOU HAVE MENTIONED THE NEGOTIATIONS IN "OCTOBER". HAS ANY DATE BEEN SET FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS TO BEGIN?

ANSWER: WE THINK SOMETIME IN OCTOBER WOULD NOT BE A BAD TIME TO START, BUT NO DEFINITE DATE HAS YET BEEN SET.

12. QUESTION: AT WHAT LEVEL WILL THE FALL NEGOTIATIONS BE HELD?

ANSWER: WE EXPECT THAT THE TALKS WILL BE HELD AT THE AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL BUT THE DELEGATIONS WILL REQUIRE ADDITIONAL EXPERT ASSISTANCE. THE CURRENT TALKS ARE OF A HIGHLY POLITICAL AND JURIDICAL NATURE. WHILE THE FALL NEGOTIATIONS WILL REMAIN HIGHLY POLITICAL, DELEGATIONS WILL REQUIRE ADDITIONAL EXPERTISE TO DEAL WITH THE MANY TECHNICAL ISSUES.

13. QUESTION: HAS IT BEEN DECIDED WHERE THE NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE HELD?

ANSWER: NO.

14. QUESTION: WILL AN AGENDA BE INCLUDED IN YOUR FINAL COMMUNIQUE?

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HOW WILL WE KNOW WHAT THE NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE ABOUT?

ANSWER: WE WILL INCLUDE A DESCRIPTION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS IN THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE.

15. QUESTION: COULD YOU COMMENT ON THE RELATIONSHIP OF FRANCE TO THESE TALKS?

ANSWER: FRANCE'S POSITION IS ENTIRELY UP TO THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT. AS YOU ARE AWARE, THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT HAS CHOSEN NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN THESE TALKS.

16. QUESTIONS: HOW FREQUENT WILL PLENARIES BE HELD? WILL THERE BE FURTHER PRESS BRIEFINGS AFTER PLENARIES?

ANSWER: WE HAVE AGREED ON A SERIES OF THREE MORE PLENARIES FOR THE TIME BEING. THE NEXT TWO WILL BE FOR PRESENTATION OF OPENING STATEMENTS. THESE STATEMENTS CAN BE MADE PUBLIC AND YOU MAY ADDRESS QUESTIONS CONCERNING THEM TO THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED. THERE WILL NOT BE PRESS BRIEFINGS AS SUCH FOLLOWING THOSE PLENARY SESSIONS. ON THURSDAY WE WILL START WORK ON THE AGENDA. IT IS NOT KNOWN NOW HOW WE WILL CONTINUE THIS DISCUSSION. WE HAVE ALREADY DISCOVERED A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT CHANNELS FOR DEALING WITH VARIOUS QUESTIONS, AND A VARIETY OF POSSIBILITIES EXISTS FOR THE CONTINUATION OF AGENDA DISCUSSIONS.

17. QUESTION: WAS YOUR STATEMENT TODAY A PERSONAL ONE OR ON BEHALF ALL THE NATO ALLIES?

ANSWER: IT WAS AN AGREED STATEMENT.
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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 MAY 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973VIENNA03994
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS MOWINCKEL
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: VIENNA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730544/aaaajeom.tel
Line Count: 268
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION MBFR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07-Sep-2001 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <29-Oct-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 980212
Subject: MBFR: 14 MAY ALLIED PRESS CONFERENCE NATO SPOKESMAN (QUARLES, NETHERLANDS) DELIVERED PRESS
TAGS: PARM, AU, NL, MBFR, NATO
To: MBFR
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005